CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1	COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT		25 X 1
	SUBJECT	Flight of Peasant Farmers to the West	DATE DISTR.	13 Apr	11 1953
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					25X1

- The number of peasant farmers who have fled to the West continues to increase
 as a result of the excessive taxes imposed on them. All the farmers' possessions,
 including agricultural machinery and household goods, are being seized in payment
 of taxes.
- 2. When SED officials have protested that a farmer cannot work without machinery, or in its absence cannot help getting further in debt, they have been told by the district council (Kreisrat) that such action against farmers offers the district council a means of socializing agriculture in its entirety.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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